**20221207 Nethra**

00:00:09

OK yeah nice to meet you, now today we have made the Chinese art piece like lantern can you like describe like what is the concept of making this?

00:00:22 Nethra

I don't really have a concept, but the designs were really nice. This show was looking really pretty, so I chose it and first I like really forest. I like the Flamingo here and the trees. It looks really nice and butterflies looking really pretty, so this house also looks very cute, so I put it on my Lantern. This is my first time making a Lantern like this. So I will go and hang it in my room.

00:00:50

Nice, but I would like to ask why you write this Chinese word. Good luck. Why?

00:00:56 Nethra

Because I'm preparing for really very tough exams, so maybe like. Writing good luck to myself. And if this Lantern is in my home maybe I will get more. Good luck.

00:01:15

So we're now going to some question about what I asked you before. Yeah, so I would like to know why. How did you know this inclusive program from West Kowloon?

00:01:26 Nethra

Oh, actually I am in an ethnic minority center in Hong Kong. It's M.E.L.T center in Jordan and Mr Max. He contacted me asking if I were if I wanted to join this community program and he asked me to be a volunteer ambassador program so. I really thought it would be really useful. I didn't know more information, but he sent me a link I think so after that I did the interview and then I got to know that it was something about helping people about their culture and for disabled people. So maybe I thought since I'm home schooled I really want to learn more about this. Maybe the lantern making and then I also saw a disabled person. He shared his, you know experiences with me, so it's actually it was really very helpful. I think yeah.

00:02:15

So what? Like you say the program is very helpful to you. And so what is any change for you? like before joining the program, and like today is the last session of the program. Is there any differences, any changes about you?

00:02:31 Nethra

any changes?

00:02:32

Yeah, like how you know more about the disabled people or know more about the community or know more about the Chinese culture.

00:02:42 Nethra

Yeah, I learned a lot about Chinese culture this time and we went to different places in West Kowloon and we also learned about different types of disabilities people face, and there was a psychologist, he was on the video call. Although everything was in Chinese, I really had the staff translated for me. They translated it in English. So thank you so much for the staff and I think it was really very helpful and the lantern making also was really nice, yeah.

00:03:15

So which session is the most impressive to you?

00:03:19 Nethra

Most impressive, I think I should say the second session where I saw the disabled person. I think I was really inspired by him because although he was having a disability, he had the courage to come out and speak himself out and we also had to like draw something on the…… sheet and then we had to take photos. That was really very nice and I think I found that session really interesting.

00:03:51

So as you are a minority group in Hong Kong, I think you also face different kind of difficulties. like what kind of difficulties you face and how you related this to other disabled people.

00:04:06 Nethra

And I hope people can treat us like we are also humans. OK, whenever I go into MTR stations, people, old people, especially they just stare at me like this and I feel really very uncomfortable and also small small kids whenever they see me they get scared and I don't know why they get scared and also whenever I go sit in any MTR seat, some people next to me, they just get up and go away, so it is really very insulting or it makes me really very sad because that is racist and also in some places the people really stare at me and I can feel them talking about me, but I think I'm used to it since I was only here 6 months ago. My dad here came long back but I had to finish my studies in India and come here. It was really tough at starting, but I think it's OK, but the young people are treating really nice. They also sometimes help me whenever I get stuck reading Chinese or I don't know what where, which way I should go. And some people help me, some people they just ignore me and go away. I think people can, you know, treat us also like themselves.

00:05:26

Yes, so do you think any, like any similarity to what you face and other disabled people face in other session like those physical disability also or mental disability. Any similarity for you as a minority group.

00:05:45 Nethra

Yeah, we don't understand the language. That's the only problem. For example, if there is a new person, they will have to communicate with sign language, right? It's the same as the person communicating in sign language, but not many of the people know sign language and not many ethnic minorities know Cantonese. It's just like that. Communicating to them is really tough. So we have to show them by the actions. We'll go this place, so I think that is really tough so I can relate to people with disabilities in that way and also understanding people. Some people can't hear, so we also can't understand what they're talking in Chinese, so I think I can relate in that way too.

00:06:28

So like disability and like healthy people also face actually the same kind of problem yeah.

So in this inclusive program, you make new friends, right? Yeah, so how do you think about that? Like they, they are very nice to you. Very helpful, yeah?

00:06:54 Nethra

You're very kind. They're really kind. I think everyone I met inside this place. They're really very kind. Very kind hearted people. They help me a lot and I also learned few Chinese words but I forgot. But that doesn't matter. I forgot, but still they were really very good to me.

00:07:14

So how the nice? They're kind of how? How can they like help you to integrate in this program or integrate into the community or the society? Like how can they help you to integrate into the community and the society?

00:07:33 Nethra

They can maybe teach me more Chinese.

because the only problem I face here is learning Chinese because the writing and speaking is different right? So I find that really very difficult maybe. I don't know. I don't know in which way they could help. Actually, I think it's really tough for us to learn Cantonese, and it's really tough for people to learn English.

00:08:07

you make many new friends here and like they help you a lot in integrate into this program or community and teach you Chinese. So what do you think? How can you use this experience to help you, in your daily life and help your group help your family or help your friends from the minority group.

I know it's difficult.

00:08:37 Nethra

maybe I can tell them that they also want to interact with us because first before this activity I really thought that Chinese people didn't want to talk to us, but the only…... But then after coming here, I understood that they want to communicate. They want to know the culture. But they just can't communicate with us, so maybe in more years I will stay in Hong Kong for rest I guess. So maybe if I learn more Cantonese I can share my culture also with them because last week I went out and they're also one Chinese person told me that ethnic minorities are really very enthusiastic about things. They Just Dance and make a lot of noise, but Chinese people tend to be really very quiet because they don't know how to communicate with us. They also want to learn more about our culture. Talk to us. So that's one thing I learned from all my friends over here and from the staff. Maybe I can learn more Cantonese and then speak with people.

00:09:51

What is the biggest barrier you face in living in Hong Kong or living in the society living in this Community?

00:09:59 Nethra

Language is the problem. Language is a very big problem. Other than that, I think I'm getting used to the food here.

00:00:00

you are the only minority group in this program and you take a big step to take part in this program. So what is your expectation after finish the program as an ambassador.

00:00:25 Nethra

What I would like to gain from this is maybe it just gave me a little boost to learn more Cantonese because I as much as people say it's tough. Maybe if I give constant practice maybe I will learn Cantonese and then I ask people share the Chinese culture to me, I want to share the Indian culture to Chinese people also. So maybe I want to learn more. Chinese and help people, disabled people. For example, you know guiding them to places or something like that, so I really want to start helping people, Chinese people with their language and also maybe teach them English if I can. I will start teaching them English.

00:01:13

You make friends here and you gain some experience. Like you say you are going to help other people so. how will you communicate with your with your family or group, or how in the coming in the future when you make new friends. Any difference? Well, what you do and like you will be more active or proactive to them. Or like any difference from the past, what do you think?

00:01:49 Nethra

No, I don't think there will be any difference. I will just be here same with people, just a little bit more enthusiasm to talk to more people. Learn about them because it will also help. Since I'm very young, I think as I grow older I can start talking to even more people.

00:02:11

Yeah, so be more active and more enthusiastic to talk to other people. Yeah yes. So what is your big learning from this program? The biggest learning?

00:02:29 Nethra

I think be creative. Being creative is something that I really learned from this. First time we had to go to a treasure hunt that was really nice and then we had to like close our eyes and use the stick. That was also really nice and. The second time we had to draw. Something and then. Third I was not able to attend because I had my COVID vaccine dose so I couldn't join the 3rd, so 4th. There's really nice lantern and make it maybe I will go hang it in my room.

00:03:01

So be creative, right?

00:03:01 Nethra

Yeah, be creative.